

MR. DANFORTH'S DEFENCE.
HIS COMMANDING OFFICER CALLED AS
HIS FIRST WITNESS.

The Court, Ruling on a Question, Says the Case Is Not Being Tried on the Disagreements Between Line and Staff Officers.

The defense in the court martial of Assistant Engineer George W. Danforth of the United States Cavalry at Philadelphia was begun yesterday morning. The court had assembled in the fog-draughted room by 10 o'clock, and very shortly afterward the President, Capt. Miller, struck the bell and the court was declared open. The private proceedings of the day before were reported by the Judge Advocate, and approved before the trial was continued. Then W. H. Stanton, Mr. Danforth's counsel, began the defense. The defense in this case is the side for which naval officers have been looking most eagerly for it since Mr. Stanton was expected to bring out the issue between line and staff.

Mr. Stanton's questions were written out in such a way that they appeared to be asked by the accused personally. They were read to the witnesses by the Judge Advocate.

Capt. Albert S. Barker was the first witness for the defense. The first question was:



THE COURT.

"What has been the character of my attention to duty and my personal and official bearing during the time?"

After a long pause Capt. Barker said it was his evidence was permissible. He was told it was not. Then he said, talking very slowly:

"Your department, so far as it has come under my observation, has been gentlemanly. At times, when speaking of your official duties, you have shown some excitement. With the exception of this case, you have shown a disposition to do work, but not always to do it in the manner direct; that is, your ideas have differed from those of the commanding officer and let engineer."

"Have I, in your opinion, shown a conscientious desire to be efficient as an officer?" read the Judge Advocate.

"You have," said Capt. Barker, very slowly, "to the best of my knowledge."

"Do you now want to punish me?"

"Have you ever referred to this case, or heard it referred to as a line and staff case, or in any other way?"

This was the occasion for clearing the room. The court was in secret session for ten minutes. The question was then referred up to the commanding general, and the action of the part, the accused to discredit his own witness, and that the case was not being tried on the issue of line and staff.

"Do you think that if Mr. Danforth had absented himself for two minutes or even five minutes, his work would have materially suffered?"

No, sir."

The Court asked: "Would any accident have happened during the absence of the officer of the deck, if he had ordered that the lower valve be not opened till his return?"

"No, sir."

The case will be concluded to-day.



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What we do when the boy came
walking at the door?

"Did you hear me give Dunlop orders to go
on deck?"

"Yes, sir."

The witness then described the testing of
the pipe which followed. Mr. Danforth was in

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